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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

DATE: December 22, 1970

FROM : Director, FBI

ATTENTION: MR. TURNER

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

O: Murkin

Reference is made to ________ memorandum dated ________ (your file ________).

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent ________ dated ________ at ________.

A. ☐ This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. ☐ The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. ☐ The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. ☐ Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E. ☐ Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F. ☐ This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

EX-112 REC 8 44-38861-5901

G. ☒ XXX This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

NOT RECORDED
JAN 5 1971

H. ☐ This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department directs.

58 JAN 11 1971

Enc. See note attached.

1- ENCLOSURE

NOTE: Attached material was furnished by [redacted] House Committee on Internal Security which had been forwarded to the Committee by one [redacted]

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

D/

TO: HON. RICHARD ICHORD, M.C.
FROM [redacted]
RE: (1) FAILURE OF JUSTICE DEPT. TO INVESTIGATE NEW EVIDENCE OF CONSPIRACY LINK IN ASSASSINATIONS OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, DR. KING, AND SENATOR KENNEDY BY EXTREMIST GROUP
(2) FAILURE OF JUSTICE DEPT., CIA, SECRET SERVICE TO DISCLOSE PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION INFORMATION, THUS NEED FOR A CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY.
(3) REQUEST INFORMATION RE PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING INVESTIGATION BY YOUR INTERNAL SECURITY COMMITTEE.

BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS

927 FIFTEENTH ST., N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005
(202) 347-3837

Received 12-21-70 from [redacted] House Committee on Internal Security.

44-38861-5901

[redacted]

BOOK REVIEWS · FREE LANCE REPORTING

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HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI
39401

Insider Exclusive!

"James Earl Ray didn't kill Dr. Martin Luther King. And I can prove it, but state officials won't let me," says Renfro Turner Hays, a Memphis private detective.

"I've got the goods to prove they've locked up the wrong man in the state penitentiary at Nashville," said Hays, who worked for Ray's first attorney, Arthur Hanes of Birmingham, Ala.

"Not only that—but they've got the only living witness who knows Ray isn't the killer hidden away in a nut house so she can't talk to the press," he added.

This is what Hays told a NATIONAL INSIDER reporter in an exclusive copyrighted interview.

"It seems everyone wants to cover up the real story behind King's death," he said. "But not me. I'm going to tell what I know."

Hays said the woman who can prove Ray didn't kill King is a former employe of the Lorraine Hotel.

That's where King spent his last living hours with his close friends, the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, now head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a Chicago civil rights leader.

Hays identified the woman as Grace Stevens.

"She saw the man who really killed King," said Hays.

"...I can prove that Ray did not kill Dr. King..."

Miss Stevens has been a patient at Western State Mental Hospital in Bolivar, Tenn., since King was gunned down on a hot April morning in 1968.

"I visited her five years ago right after King was killed," Hays said.

"She had a picture of the man who killed King. It wasn't a picture of Ray either.

"Not only that, but I've got her statement describing the gunman, and I've got a witness to what was said in her room."

Hays identified the witness as a Dr. Scott. However, hospital authorities refuse to say if Scott still is on the staff, or whether Miss Stevens is, or was, a patient at the institution.

"When I got through questioning her, Scott turned to me and said: 'My God, that's why they keep her up here. I knew there was nothing in the world wrong with the woman'," reported Hays.

Hays has raised some other rather curious questions regarding the investigation.

"There is a good deal of evidence to indicate that whoever killed King didn't do the job without help," Hays believes.

"Let's go back and reconstruct the last hours of King's life," he said.

"First of all you've got to go back and look at the scene. You know, make a diagram of it.

"This place where King was supposed to have been shot from was in two sections. Now this shot could only have been fired from one spot in the rooming house or the killer wouldn't have had a clear shot at King.

Arthur Hanes, attorney for James Earl Ray, talks with newsmen in front of the Shelby County Jail in Memphis. That's where Ray was kept pending the trial.

"The curious thing is there hadn't been a vacancy in that rooming house for almost four years before the assassination," he said.

"Then, on March 29, a man is found dead in bed in that rooming house. That's the day Ray goes into a store in Birmingham and buys a rifle," he said.

"And on that same afternoon by sheer coincidence—if that's what you want to call it—some people come along and chop down the trees that open up the line of fire between the rooming house and the motel where King is going to stay," he said.

"Even when King decided to return to Memphis, he didn't think he was going to the Lorraine Motel," Hays went on. "King thought he was going to stay at the River Mount Motel—that's where he had his reservations.

"By the time King got back to Memphis his reservations had been changed to the Lorraine and that's when the real game of musical chairs began.

"...Key witness is being hid in a mad house..."

"First he was to have stayed in the big suite downstairs. But this was changed. He was moved upstairs and after that his room was changed again.

"The room he finally received put him in direct line of fire with the room from which the sniper cut him down," Hays said.

"They made three separate moves to get him in the right room," the detective stated.

Hays said that there had been a great deal of pressure placed on King to get him to return to Memphis "and even more to get him into that room."

Hays also pointed out that the woman who ran the hotel, Lorraine Bailey, died of a cerebral hemorrhage within two hours of King's death.

3

Rev. King's Killer Still On The Loose!

Says Ray Not Guilty

"But I got a copy of a statement made by a guy who overheard the deal she made to get King's room," he said. "They came to her and set up the deal before he ever got there."

Hays explained that the man—a former employe of the hotel—died the day after King was shot.

"He was up in one of the hotel rooms by himself, and his pistol accidentally fell out of his belt and hit the floor. The gun went off and he shot himself through the heart."

Kind of peculiar, wouldn't you think? asked Hays.

To add to the list of quirks in King's death, Hays said even the judge died shortly after Ray pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 99 years.

The jurist, Judge W. Preston Battle, accepted Ray's guilty plea on March 10. Fourteen days later, he died of a heart attack in his chambers.

..."The events were just too much of a coincidence..."

"Either all these people suddenly developed heart trouble or were accident prone or someone arranged to help them," said Hays.

Battle never had a "heart problem in his life," added Hays, although he was a diabetic.

While Ray has asked for a new trial, there is doubt if he ever will get it.

For while Ray has asked for a new trial, the law has been interpreted to bar him from it.

The Tennessee Supreme Court has ruled that a convicted criminal cannot invalidate his prison sentence on grounds that he pleaded guilty because of faulty advice by his attorney.

Ray has been seeking a new trial on grounds that his second attorney, Percy Foreman of Houston, pressured him into pleading guilty.

A high legal source says that's why Ray's appeal for a new trial was turned down.

"There's still one more piece to the puzzle that needs an explanation," one source has said. "That's the strange death of King's brother."

The Rev. A. D. King was found drowned in a recently installed swimming pool at his Atlanta home on July 21, 1969.

"I don't say his death is linked to the others," said Hays, "but he is the one person who could have forced a full investigation.

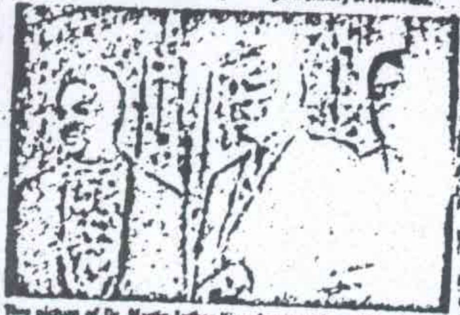
"From several points of view there was a conspiracy. And Ray isn't the killer," Hays claims.

"I'm going to get my conclusions stood by a court," vowed the investigator.

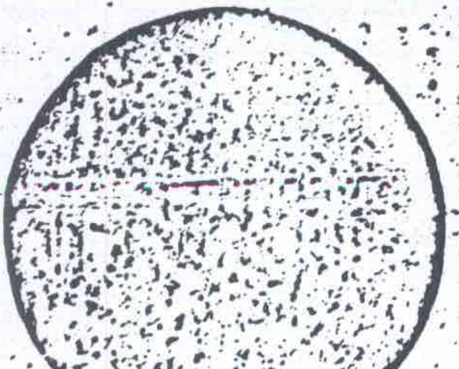
And perhaps Hays will. His suit in Memphis, seeking possession of Ray's white Mustang and the rifle used in the slaying in lieu of a $9,000 fee he's owed for his work, will soon be [illegible]

"Ray didn't kill Dr. King," says Renfro T. Hays, the Memphis detective who worked on the case for attorney Arthur Hanes.

James Earl Ray continues to fight for a new trial from his heavily guarded cell in the state penitentiary at Nashville.



This picture of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was taken while standing with his two closest advisors, the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Dr. Ralph Abernathy, as they stood on the porch of the Lorraine Motel.



The killer with a rifle mounted by a telescopic sight had a clear view of his target, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. All the trees had been cut down to give him a clear shot of the civil rights leader.